

waiting to come to this country legally, to respect the laws and the rules of the country that they want to become a part of—who are exactly the kind of folks that we want to come here.

Another thing nobody ever talks about is 95 percent of those people are people of color, and they are going to be wonderful people that make America stronger.

The Mexican drug cartels are making, on estimate, \$25 billion a year, and now they are charging \$4,000 a head for illegal crossings, which adds another \$12 billion to their pockets. And we have had 107,000 deaths last year alone to opioid overdoses.

We need to unite as Americans, secure our southern border, and make our country more secure and Americans safer.

REPUBLICAN CONTROL WILL PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRODUCE RESULTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friends for joining us on the floor tonight at this late hour. It has been a long day on Capitol Hill, but there are things that need to be said here.

It is December again, and of course that means that we are in the homestretch of a new Congress, this Congress, the 117th. The homestretch of any Congress, as we know, is when the threat of bad legislating is at its most pronounced. We have certainly seen all that here this week.

Government appropriations have been taken hostage by Democrats who want to spend even more. They seem to have forgotten about the trillions of dollars that have already been spent earlier this year.

The NDAA has been taken hostage just today by Democrats who think the right to vote is under some sort of secret threat. I guess they didn't pay attention to the massive voter turnout in Georgia just yesterday.

Here tonight, they rushed through a rule to codify same-sex marriage and create a private right of action that will vilify and supercharge attacks on people of faith.

Madam Speaker, this lame duck session is doing serious and lasting harm

to our Republic, and I guess it is a fitting end to this—what really has been a disastrous Congress overall under Democrat rule. We have with trillions upon trillions in government spending, sending inflation for all American families soaring.

We have had votes on immensely consequential, complex, thousand-plus-page bills, handed to us just hours before those votes. We have had Members dial into congressional hearings from their bedrooms and basements and even while on vacation in Europe—proxy voting. Thankfully, this is all about to come to an end, mercifully in less than a month.

The American people have spoken and the American people have given Republicans control of this body to provide accountability and produce results.

Madam Speaker, this is a legislative body and it is high time for this body to get back to the work that we are supposed to be doing for the American people. Come January, that is exactly what we intend to do.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining us here today to talk about all of it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding and for claiming the time this evening.

Madam Speaker, in 27 days, adherence to the constitutional principles will be returned to this institution.

In 27 days, accountability will be returned to our government.

In 27 days, Republicans will take the majority in this Chamber, secure the committee gavels, and begin the long climb to deliver a strong economy, a safe Nation, a free future, and an accountable government.

I say "the long climb" because over the course of the last 2 years of one-party Democratic rule in Washington, America has lost its way. We have seen trillions of hard-earned tax dollars and trillions borrowed from the next generation wasted. We have seen our national border overrun with millions of illegal immigrants and enough illicit and deadly fentanyl to kill every American many times over.

After decades of trying, America finally successfully achieved energy independence under the Trump administration. But in 2 years we have seen this country driven back into the ditch of energy dependence on foreign dictators and the high energy prices that come with it.

We have seen the funding of an army of 87,000 new IRS agents to go after the middle-class, working Americans in this country, catastrophic failures in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world, and a justice system targeting concerned parents, vaccine mandates damaging our military readiness, unelected bureaucrats run amok in virtue signaling, and Big Tech in cahoots

with our government to stifle free speech for half of the American citizenry.

That is a mind-boggling amount of damage over 2 short years, and even a strong Nation like America can only take so much. But, thankfully, the turnaround begins on January 3, 2023, when Republicans retake the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

All of these issues are vitally important to the good folks back in my home of middle Tennessee. But I truly believe no issue is more important than that of the right to free speech. George Washington said, "If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter."

We recently learned that Twitter colluded with the Biden campaign and allegedly the FBI to suppress damaging information to President Biden's campaign. This only makes me wonder:

What else are these Big Tech companies hiding?

Soon enough, we will be able to find out.

Additionally, Securities and Exchange Commissioner Gary Gensler appears to be on a mission to destroy our small farms and businesses. He failed to provide proper oversight of crypto companies while cozying up to the biggest crypto fraud of the last decade, all while not appearing before the House Financial Services Committee in over 428 days.

Proper oversight will be on its way in 27 days.

Madam Speaker, for too long unelected bureaucrats have not had to answer to the American people. Make no mistake: no stone will go unturned in order to deliver the accountability the American people truly deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That is so well said. There are so many issues to cover.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, he so quite correctly outlined some of the difficulties facing Congress as we get to this end-of-the-year crunch of legislation that has to pass before the end of the year.

There is no place where this is more pronounced than for our Nation's doctors. The very people that we asked to get us through the pandemic, the very people that we have asked to take care of us. And now we arrive at the end of this Congress, and we say: Thank you for your service, here is your pay cut. And they go: Wait, what? A paycheck.

The Surgeon General came to the Doctors Caucus earlier this year and said he is concerned. He goes around and talks to doctors all over the country, he is concerned about the level of burnout that he is seeing in the Nation's physicians. He said he has never seen this before.

It really should not be a surprise. You work doctors and nurses day and night during the pandemic, and then

you turn around and say, You know what, we don't value what you do. The evidence for that is right as we barrel into the end of the year, there are significant cuts to the physician fee schedule, sequesters, paygo, budget neutrality requirements that in aggregate spell about an 8 to 9 percent reduction in payments for physicians.

For years, I fought to repeal the sustainable growth rate formula. The sustainable growth rate formula was repealed in 2015. I thought, hallelujah, we won't spend every December having to worry about how to make our doctors whole because the formula has gone away.

But now through administrative actions and through budgetary requirements, doctors are facing these pay cuts. So here we are in another December trying to scramble together a doc fix so our doctors can remain in practice.

But what makes this year so different and what makes this year so devastating to the Nation's doctors is on top of the 8 to 9 percent cuts in Medicare, they are facing 8 to 9 percent inflation. Nowhere else in the Federal Government could you say, Hey, we are going to hold you at level funding and not take into account the fact that the cost of living adjustment—it would be a pay cut anywhere else.

Well, I will tell you this, it is a pay cut in your doctor's office, and they are feeling it. The aggregate weight of these pay cuts is going to be such that we will drive doctors out of practice. I hear from docs all the time that they are going to have to close up shop.

What does that mean? It means further consolidation within the healthcare industry. It means further hospital zoning physician practices, private equity-only physician practices because we just can't keep up with what the government is doing to us.

Now, there is a chance that something will happen before the end of this year and stop these cuts before they are administered. But I will tell you this, in the new Congress—in the next Congress—it is my intention that we have to be very serious about tackling this problem in our authorizing committees.

Madam Speaker, I am on the Committee of Energy and Commerce, I expect that very early in the year we will be intentional about fixing this problem because we can't find ourselves here in December of another year where our docs are saying, We are at the end of our ropes, and we just can't take it anymore.

This is a serious problem; it needs to be fixed. President Biden would talk about, Hey, Republicans, they are going to cut your Social Security and Medicare.

Well, Mr. President, you know who is cutting Medicare right now?

You are. It is your agency, and you won't stop it. Next Congress, Republicans will.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the doctor for high-

lighting that. It is such an important issue, and just one more example of so much that has gone wrong here.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about immigration. The Democrats and the mainstream media need to take responsibility for their cover-up of President Biden's border crisis.

The liberal media hasn't made a peep about the fact that over 4 million illegals have been encountered at our southern border since President Biden took office. That is a record number, Madam Speaker, 4 million people. We have never seen this before.

They also kept the Biden administration's dirty little secret when it started flying illegals into Knoxville, Chattanooga, and all over the country in the dead of night without telling anyone, without telling the State authorities, and definitely not telling the Congressman from the Second Congressional District about it.

But then the media had a field day when Republican Governors sent a few buses of illegals to New York and Martha's Vineyard. I kept waiting for one of them to say, Buffy, quick, we have got illegals out here.

This administration is trying to keep us focused on things like climate change and woke social programs instead of their disastrous handling of our southern border. Of course, the media follows the Democrats' lead like a lost puppy dog. They cover what the Democrats want them to cover, and it is a shameful way to do journalism—a once respectable occupation.

□ 2030

It is a disgusting cover up of a very simple truth. We desperately need to close the dadgum border, Madam Speaker, and strengthen our immigration laws.

We need to reform our asylum system, which is a total joke, so illegal immigrants aren't eligible if they travel through a safe third country. We need to clarify in our laws that gang and domestic violence are not grounds for asylum; those are grounds for moving neighborhoods, not moving countries, Madam Speaker.

We also need to fully implement some policies like the Remain in Mexico policy, which is a reasonable policy, and which is critical to our national security, Madam Speaker.

Our liberal media need to stop kowtowing to the Democrats and start reporting on the facts. The American people deserve to know what is going on. And I guarantee you, the more they know, the more they will demand these kind of real changes from the disastrous Biden administration.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman JOHNSON for his more-than-lackluster attempt at democracy tonight. I, for one, enjoy it, and these young people over here seem to be enjoying it themselves, all five of those young people.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I really do have the honor to yield next to a friend and colleague who will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

Since 2005, he has represented the dozen counties stretching nearly 120 miles down Texas' eastern border with Louisiana. I represent one of his neighboring districts over that border; and in our region and, in fact, I can say nationwide, Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT is a household name.

Prior to his election to Congress 9 terms ago, he served as a district judge in Texas, and Chief Justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals of Texas. He is also a captain in the U.S. Army. He served our Nation bravely.

Judge Gohmert has been a bold defender of America's founding principles his entire life and career; and whether he is leading a debate in our House Judiciary Committee, or in the Natural Resources Committee, or setting the example for all of us with his tireless advocacy here on this House floor, LOUIE GOHMERT has been a consummate servant for the people and for our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my friend and my colleague.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for his kind comments. The truth is, he is one of the reasons I am comfortable leaving.

There have been times when I was extremely concerned about people standing up for what is right; whether it was standing up to our own leadership or leadership of the country, including the White House, leadership of our own party, or the other party. But I have been encouraged; that is why I was willing to take a big chance on running for office statewide, even though I got in so late.

That was a matter that I will not be able to save Texas from suffering; but I have got great comfort here.

What does concern me greatly about our country, I think the bill that was just—we took up the rule on just now, concerns me.

As I know my brother, MIKE JOHNSON, knows and believes, as one of the leaders I know here on the floor, Moses, we believe, got word directly from God, and Moses passed that on, saying that a man shall leave his father and mother and a woman leave her home and the two will become one.

When Jesus was asked a question about marriage and divorce, he quoted Moses verbatim. Jesus, of course, some people say, was a great teacher, taught a lot of great things. But as C.S. Lewis pointed out, he said he was God. He said he was one on with the Father. He said so many things like that, it is very clear, he didn't have a choice to say he was a good teacher because he was either a liar, a lunatic, or he was Lord, as he said.

But the Founders, the huge majority of the Founders were not only believers

in what Moses and Jesus taught, but they were strong practicing Christians.

Nowadays, school children are taught, Ben Franklin was a deist, someone who believes, basically, that some deity, something, some force, created the universe, and if that deity, thing, force, whatever, still exists today, it never interferes with the ways of men.

But if you go back to the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin gave a speech when things looked like they had come to an end; they were going to go no further. There was so much yelling and disagreement.

Ben Franklin was recognized by the President of the Convention, President George Washington, and he pointed out that they had had so much disagreement over everything, and he said—he pointed back to the Continental Congress, and he said: In the beginning contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered.

That is not a deist saying those things. But he went on to say—and these are His words. We know because the speech was so profound others there asked him for a copy, and he sat down and wrote the speech and everybody that heard it looked and said, yeah, that is exactly what he said.

He went on to say, we know: I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth. God governs in the affairs of men; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible a nation could rise without his aid?

He said: We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writing, that a nation cannot rise without his aid; a home will not rise without his aid. And he assured that this nation could not be built without his aid.

In this book, "Wall of Misconception," by Pastor Emeritus, former head of the Presbyterian Seminary in Philadelphia, Peter Lillback, a great historian, he points out that President Washington, in his first inaugural address, frequently referred to the Almighty. His very first act as President was to pray. Washington prayed that God would secure the liberties of the new Nation.

He went on to say that no one should be more grateful to God than the people of the United States of America in light of what God had done for them throughout the war. Although the new nation had just gone through the tumultuous time after the revolution of creating a new civil government, the process fraught with sectional rivalries and tensions was accomplished in a peacefully unique way that called for pious gratitude—those were his words—since this implied even more divine blessings to come.

The implication Washington drew from all of this was that America could not expect the continuing "smiles of

heaven" if the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained were disregarded.

We must remember that when Washington attended the Anglican churches of his day, he, along with the congregation, recited the Ten Commandments from the list behind the altar.

In Washington's historical context, "the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained" could only refer to the Ten Commandments, given that this was the belief of almost every American in Washington's day who read or heard his inaugural address.

Along with his solemn inaugural address that graced America's first auspicious pageant of civil religion, Washington's inauguration contributed other religious precedents.

He was sworn in as President with the use of the Bible. This Bible has been sacredly kept by the Masons of New York City. The page where Washington placed his hand for the oath of office was marked by the turning down of the corner of the page. Interestingly, the marked page is Genesis 49, the chapter where Jacob, the father of the sons of Israel, bestows his blessings upon them.

By this time, Washington had long been called the "Father of His Country". The parallel of the text in the inauguration was not accidental.

Tradition has that he said, so help me God. That was not a written part of the oath. Then he bent down and he kissed the Bible.

But the religious elements of Washington's inauguration were still not complete. Next, he led the Congressmen and everyone else across the street from Federal Hall to St. Paul's Chapel for a 2-hour service of Christian worship to commit the new nation to God.

According to Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, she knelt with President Washington as they received the Eucharist together. This is part of our history. That was the very beginning.

It is interesting to note, as Jonathan Cahn did, that on 9/11, the one building that was considered part of Ground Zero was not broken, cracked, damaged whatsoever, was that very St. Paul's Chapel, where our Nation was committed to God during that period in which all of the Members of Congress, the President, Vice President Adams, they were all there participating in that time of prayer and committing this Nation to God, to the Almighty.

On visiting there, I was informed that the graveyard that is right behind the chapel on the side facing the Twin Towers, that when they fell, a huge tree, sycamore tree, at the back of the cemetery was completely uprooted. Jonathan Cahn pointed this out.

But there, the proprietor, the caretaker said that tree fell across all those graves and not one gravestone was cracked, broken, harmed in any way, nor was the chapel, not even a window cracked. It was seen to be a

miracle the way that building where our Nation was first committed to God was so very protected. Amazing, the history.

I know that there have been civilizations throughout history that have recognized same-sex union. But if you do enough digging, you find that when it came to actual marriage, that that was considered part of having children and a family, as God had said, go forth and multiply. That was considered—marriage was considered for having children and building a family.

Yes, of course, you can build a wonderful family by adoption. Now we are told that men can get pregnant. We wonder, you know, with the incredible advances of medicine, just how much man will take on the role of being his own God. It is a very dangerous thing because every time a nation has gotten to that point, they didn't last much longer.

□ 2045

If you want to attribute that to just nature or nature's God, as our Founders did, then you have your choice, but it did not bode well for such a Nation.

Now, back when the United States was a majority, a vast majority, of strong Christians, leaders of the country could appeal to the Judeo-Christian beliefs and the teachings of Moses, of the prophets, of Jesus and the apostles in the New Testament. Those things could be appealed to in the hearts of most Americans, and they would find great reception.

Now, the polls, studies, and surveys indicate that a majority of Americans do not attend church and do not seem to believe in a loving God. The appeals, therefore, of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an ordained Christian pastor, who appealed to the better nature in America, that love was stronger than hate, and love could overcome hate, and love would bring the Nation together.

But since there are so few now, most don't seem to have a common agreement about the Judeo-Christian teaching that once overwhelmed the Nation at a time early on, when Harvard was established, Yale was established, basically to teach Christianity and educate people for a great future.

In fact, if you go back and look at the pledge that students had to make about their devotion to Jesus Christ, it is really staggering. But that is how things were started. That was an amazing start for this country.

Only a country that had turned its back on the teachings of Dr. King and the person that Dr. King called his Lord and Savior could become so hypocritical as we have as a Nation. We think, too often, we are God; we know better than God; we know better than Moses.

I expect sometime that his bust depicted in the middle of this Chamber as the greatest lawgiver of all time, somebody will complain that needs to be taken down. Never mind the fact that

there are great lawgivers, like Hammurabi. Some have been talking about the Code of Hammurabi and the Justinian code. Those are people who are up there.

Most people are not aware Napoleon was a lawgiver through the Napoleonic Code. Thomas Jefferson is up there. People hopefully are aware he was not at the Constitutional Convention; he was representing us in Europe. But he did help with the Northwest Ordinances and was in Virginia. He helped with laws that became a helpful framework for our Constitution and our laws.

Democrats preach long and loud that George W. Bush was not a legitimate President, that he stole the election of 2000 and stole the election of 2004. For that reason, they then objected to his election on the House floor on January 6 not of 2021 but of 2001. Then there was objection on this floor January 6 of 2005.

Although we sat here and waited for our chance to vote on the counting of the electors, no one in here realized that, according to so many Democrats today, when you object to electors, you are an election denier, treasonous, and guilty of sedition. None of us suspected that at the time that objections were made on the other side of the aisle.

In fact, on January 6, 2017, when we had 11 different objections from Democrats saying that Trump stole the election, we didn't realize that, according to the Democrats, the Democrats that objected were guilty of treason and sedition and that they should really be run out of public altogether and should not be allowed to participate in government. In fact, they shouldn't be allowed to actually be seen out in public. It was so despicable that their neighbors should reject them and run them out of the neighborhood.

None of us on this side of the aisle—I remember—in 2005 and 2017, we didn't realize what the Democrats are now telling us, that those were acts of sedition and that they were showing themselves to be election deniers. We thought that because the Democrats were following the procedures that were set out in the Constitution, they were following their beliefs and their constitutional rights. We didn't dream that they were committing sedition and treason, as they are now saying that apparently they were doing.

It was shocking to me that Democrats were alleging that Donald Trump stole that election and that he stole it with the help of collusion with Russia. We heard those claims. It took a while longer, after a multimillion-dollar investigation that found nothing of the sort. Gee, it turns out, as the investigation has gone on, that actually the Democratic National Committee, the Clinton campaign, members of the FBI, members of the DOJ, and the intel community were working in conjunction first to prevent Donald Trump from getting elected and then also working after he was elected to have him removed from office.

Now, most of us were upset on this side of the aisle with the continued, ongoing, never-ending efforts to remove Donald Trump from the office to which he was duly elected. But we didn't realize that the Democrats' actions, according to their explanations now, amounted to sedition, treason, a coup d'etat, and all of these other things we have heard in the last 2 years.

It is shocking because I don't know of anybody on our side of the aisle who realized that what was going on, on the other side of the aisle, was actually an attempted coup and seditionist treason. We didn't realize that because we hadn't heard from the Democrats until the last 2 years that to raise such issues was exactly what they were saying.

Now, they have even hypocritically turned to the government, billionaire businesses, banks, and individuals to get them to go against Republicans and start letting some Republicans, like the President of the United States, know: "We don't like your politics, and we will never allow you to do business with our banks and our businesses. We are going to try to break you, bankrupt you." We didn't realize that those were helpful things to do on behalf of our Nation.

I don't think they are indicative of what Dr. King, the reverend that he was—he had studied the Bible. He had even studied Gandhi's life and how peace was the way to make progress, peaceful protest. He preached against going after your enemies, going after your opponents, trying to destroy them. He preached what he knew, and that was Christian love.

But what we have illustrated here is a Nation that has turned from God and, to borrow from Longfellow, to allow hate in this country to be strong and mock the song of peace on Earth, goodwill toward men.

Overall, this Nation was one in which the people could be appealed to on the basis of a loving God who through, we believe, the Savior pointed out the two most important commands, to love God and love each other, and on those two hang all the law, all the prophets.

Actually, if you were to do an outline and put love God and love your neighbor, you can put all the laws from the Ten Commandments and most laws today under one of those two.

We have been so blessed in this country. Our Founders, nearly all of them, believed it was because they were trying to pursue freedom.

Historically, as an old history major, as somebody who has never stopped reading and learning history, we look back, as so many historians have, at the American Revolution. Many believe that the American Revolution came about because of the great Christian awakening that occurred in the 1700s, when most of the Nation repented of sins, of wrongdoing, and asked for forgiveness. What grew was a love of liberty and a love of freedom.

Historians have looked back and said, wow, that war ended, and it ended

in the Treaty of Paris, 1783. I was surprised to see an exact duplicate of the Treaty of Paris, 1783, because of the huge words that started the Treaty of Paris. I did not realize that they were so big, and I didn't realize that is how it started. But if you think about making a treaty with the biggest, most powerful country in the world in 1783, what would you put on the document to scare Great Britain, with the biggest Army, biggest Navy, what would you start it with to make them afraid to break their oath? Well, the Founders started with the huge words: "In the name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity," Trinity talking about the Father, Son, Holy Ghost. "In the name of the most Holy and undivided trinity," that is how that started.

They thought that is powerful enough that even the British will be afraid to break that oath. That is what they signed.

□ 2100

Others pointed out that, in the 1800s, there was a great awakening, and that same yearning and love of freedom led so many to say that slavery must end, that we cannot continue.

Actually, Thomas Jefferson, of all people, put that as the biggest grievance in the Declaration of Independence, that King George ever allowed slavery to begin. Those who would say that the Nation started with slavery; no, Jefferson said it started in spite of it, that it was a blight on this country, and blamed King George for ever allowing it because it was damaging the country and would damage the country.

But in the 1800s, after the Nation's second great Christian awakening, we had a Civil War, and 500,000 Americans were lost, 500,000 casualties lost in that fight, but we emerged stronger out of it.

It took a while, but there were people who had the love Lincoln had developed. He started out in his twenties bragging that he was an atheist, but by the time he was President, as Stephen Mansfield points out in his book, "Lincoln's Battle with God," he knew there was a God. He knew God was at work, and he knew that they should have love for people even with whom they disagreed.

But our country has abandoned the teachings of Moses, of Jesus, of Dr. King. I have idolized the "I Have a Dream" speech for nearly all of my life. It is so profound. It provokes tears. It is so powerful.

But that part of the dream where people would be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin, we were so close. Now, this country has been fundamentally transformed, and, now, teachers are telling children to judge people by their skin color.

What has gone on? We have colleges that say that they are so omniscient that they know the way to go is to have segregated dormitories.

What happened to the dream? It has turned into a nightmare. How could this happen? Perhaps if there was a third great awakening, many believe, we could get back on track.

Why was the American Revolution successful? We didn't kill a lot of people after the American Revolution. We signed a peace treaty. We asked them to leave us alone, and we would leave them alone. So, why did the French Revolution end up with—you can find, I have seen estimates, some people say as few as 13,000 heads cut off with a guillotine. Some say 44,000 heads chopped off.

We didn't have that after the American Revolution. Why was that? Some historians say because ours was about love of freedom and liberty, as the Bible taught, and the French Revolution was about a love for revenge. We are seeing that vengefulness play out.

There is nothing wrong with disagreeing. As the preacher said—and I know in the 1960s Lyndon Johnson was given credit, but Dr. L.L. Morris said it back around 1950 before I was born, said it to my parents: If two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary.

I have said that in deacons meetings at our church when people say we all ought to have exactly the same idea. No, it is good—since we are all human, nobody is perfect, and nobody has 100 percent lock on God's wisdom—that we exchange ideas, and we argue. It is okay to argue.

When I talk about a battle, I am talking about a battle of words. Some people in here are unarmed in a battle of words, and some are quite armed in a battle of words. But that is a good, healthy thing, to disagree. Otherwise, we would only need one dictator.

I am afraid we have been moving in that direction. So many of the things Orwell talked about are happening. We have people on the other side of the aisle who basically want a ministry of truth that will write down what the truth is, and anybody that disagrees with that will be guilty of a crime.

I haven't heard anybody on the other side of the aisle talk about the enforcement mechanism. That was called the ministry of love. They would pick you up, torture you, and keep you in the basement of the ministry of love, torturing days, weeks, years, whatever it took until you would repeat whatever they told you was the truth. It is the kind of thing that would kill a Galileo for saying that Earth was not the center of our solar system.

We need to have open minds, but it is important to learn from history because when you don't—everybody knows the saying—you are destined to repeat it.

We have a chance, and I believe with all my heart that it is because God is a merciful God. He has been mocked. We have his name right up here: In God We Trust. I know lots of people have been trying to get that down, but it is still there, and I know it will still be there for the next 2 years.

But we have to get over this thing of being vengeful. Even Federal judges here regarding January 6, like I have said before, people that committed violent acts, people that did destructive acts to this building, they deserve to be severely punished, but there were some that walked into the building and seemed to be welcomed. People say they are terrorists, and Federal judges have called them all kinds of names, called them seditionists, called them all kinds of things when they weren't rioting. Some were, and they need to be punished, and they have been.

But to have Federal judges throw the Constitution out the window and say: I haven't heard the evidence, but you are a seditionist, and you are dangerous. We need to make sure you are punished. You are a threat to the country—when there was no evidence of that for the individual before the judge.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), one of the great constitutional scholars in this body, and my friend, he really does understand the Constitution. One of the things I hope happens is that we will start subpoenaing judges. We impeached two Federal judges early on when I was here. It is time to bring them in and find out if there is a basis for impeaching them.

Are they going to continue to want to punish people in pretrial confinement, even though that is unconstitutional?

Are they going to continue to judge people and issue rulings when there is no evidence whatsoever on which to base the vile things they are saying about the individuals before them?

We need to know because if they are going to continue to be like Judge Roy Bean in his courtroom, which too many Federal judges are these days, it is time to stop it. Make them accountable. Let them know that there are checks and balances, and they are not God.

They took an oath, and they will be judged by that oath. If they are not following it, remove them. I hope that will happen, a shot across the bow.

I am grateful to have served in this body. I was hoping that, when I left, I would feel confident that our freedom was preserved for the next generations, at least the next one or two. I don't know. I see too many disturbing issues.

□ 2110

But I believe God is merciful, and he has given us a chance. I will be hopeful, and I will be praying for my colleagues that will be here next year. Let's get back on track. Let's don't do things out of hate. Let's don't do things out of revenge. Let's do things for a love of freedom so we don't have 44,000 people get their heads chopped off because people were overwhelmed and just insatiable wanting revenge.

I am very grateful to my friend for yielding to me today. He is a true—I started to say "patriot," but I know

some judge chastised someone for being a patriot; wanted to punish him more heavily.

So, hopefully, we can get back to a day when loving the country patriotically is a good thing.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments. He has been a great example for that, and that was a fitting end to a long career and a lot of hours here on this floor articulating the truth and standing for America's founding principles.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), another good friend, colleague, and a patriot.

RECOGNIZING A. KEITH McDONALD

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a really close friend of mine and a strong leader for Bartlett, Tennessee, A. Keith McDonald.

After serving as the mayor of Bartlett for 20 years, Keith McDonald has decided it is time for a well-earned retirement.

Keith has dedicated his entire life to the betterment of our community in west Tennessee.

He is a graduate of Clarksville High School, Freed-Hardeman University, and the University of Memphis.

As a young insurance agent, Keith played an instrumental role in forming today's Bartlett Chamber of Commerce and also developing its industrial park.

Now, prior to his government service, Keith traveled to Japan to help recruit brother industries to invest in Bartlett as the anchor tenant of that park.

Keith decided to further give to his community when he joined local government. So, in October of 2017, Keith became an alderman for the city of Bartlett and was elected its mayor in 2002.

There have been so many accomplishments during Keith's tenure as mayor during the past 20 years. Perhaps the most significant is Keith's leadership in creating and establishing the Bartlett City School System.

Now in its ninth year, the school system has further demonstrated that Bartlett is a great place to not only operate a business, but also educate children and raise families. None of it would have happened without Keith McDonald's drive and determination.

I talked with Keith's son, Brooks, about his father's life and career. Brooks told me that at home Keith taught his children about what Keith called the 80/20 rule, and that is that 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. It is a lesson that Brooks has never forgotten and that Keith has continuously demonstrated both in his faith and in his community and in his family.

Now, speaking of his family, that is what is most important to Keith. Whether it was leading his son's PTA groups or serving as their Scout leader, Keith has always been that strong and loving father for Brooks and for Ryan.

Without a doubt, the city of Bartlett will certainly miss Keith McDonald's vision and leadership.

To Brooks and Ryan, I know that you are proud of your father's public service. To Keith's wife and his partner, Patty, we thank you for the years that you have given and all that you have given over these last 20 years.

Roberta and I wish Keith and his family the best as his public service concludes over the next few days. To Keith, job well done.

I thank the gentleman for yielding his time and for leading this Special Order hour tonight.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for fitting into the hour and honoring Mayor Keith McDonald. He sounds like a faithful public servant and one I wish I had the pleasure of knowing. We commend him on his long public service, and it is fitting that we do that on the night that we are bidding farewell soon to our friend and colleague, Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT, as well.

These are the kind of faithful public servants that the Founding Fathers had in mind, that they would serve selflessly for a long tenure and give themselves to their community.

Madam Speaker, I know the clock has wound up and I am out of time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE MATH WILL ALWAYS WIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, forgive me as I get myself somewhat organized as is the chaos when you use lots of boards.

Madam Speaker, we are going to sort of do something in sort of a continuation on a theme.

A couple weeks ago, I was behind the microphones here, and it is something I have done a lot, and I walked through just how much trouble we are in as a society. The debt is coming, and it turns out that debt is not Democrat or Republican, it is demographics; we got old.

But before I start to walk through what I believe is the thought process of the solutions that actually can save us, I am going to ask some favors of anyone who is crazy enough to give us time to watch some of this.

I actually do read the comments when these things are put out on social media. When you look around the room, there is almost no one here, but we are on several hundred televisions right now around the campus. Right now in offices in the buildings there are young people working on policy pa-

pers who have this on their screen. This is part of the way we communicate with each other. There is a purpose.

The second thing I am going to ask, as I start to walk through these ideas, is open your minds. Some of these will offend Republicans. Some are going to offend Democrats. But the math, the math is true. And the family motto: "The math will always win."

There is hope out there, but every single day this place continues to operate like a clown show. And I am sorry, that was very mean to clowns. Being sarcastic and being mean, the scale of what is coming at us and the immorality of not dealing with it terrifies me. So we are going to do a quick recap.

The next 30 years—and these are last year's CBO numbers, this is before inflation has been calculated in—we functionally have, and the newest one was 114, this one is \$116 trillion of borrowed money coming. That is in today's dollars.

So think about that. On this board we are going to borrow \$116 trillion or \$114 trillion. We have about \$1.9 trillion—we are in the positive.

So where is all the borrowing coming from?

Every dime of borrowing over the next 30 years, 75 percent of it is Medicare, 25 is a shortfall in Social Security.

□ 2120

That is immoral. But it is math. We got old. Baby boomers started retiring. It is math.

How many conversations have happened on the floor today saying: Hey, this is going to drive all public policy because it is going to consume every dollar?

This is the reality.

Madam Speaker, we are in the process of adopting a little boy right now. He is 5 months old. He has been with us since his first few days of life. It is a joy. When he turns 25, we have to double—his tax rate will have to have doubled what we all pay, and that is just to maintain the baseline of services.

So if you think about where you are going to be 20 years from now, Madam Speaker, 25 years from now, are you ready to pay double the taxes?

We make businesses actually do disclosures now saying: Well, global warming, environmental change, you should have to disclose that.

Damn it, should those same businesses have to disclose the fact that their tax rates are doubling over the next couple of decades?

It is baked in the cake. It is this math. Unless you have a revolution in two areas: crashing the cost of healthcare and economic growth. And growth is moral. Think about the end of 2017, 2018, and 2019 when the poor got dramatically less poor, the middle class got much more prosperous, and income inequality shrank dramatically. It is moral.

In this place we are going to fight over the stupidest things because it is easy to understand, it is theatrical, and I have \$100-plus trillion of crushing debt coming on top of the \$31 trillion already out there, and that is going to crush all of you.

If you think you are retiring, Madam Speaker, if you think my little boy or my 7-year-old girl, when they hit their peak earning years, are going to live more prosperous than we do, then we need to engage in some sort thought revolution, and that is what I am asking everyone to give me. I am going to do this in a couple of series, so this is going to be over a couple of nights. But I also need you to understand how dangerous it is.

Debt markets are smart. Those debt markets out there where we are having to borrow trillions see Congress is actually starting to take this stuff seriously, we will be benefited by the price of money into the future.

Right now they don't think we are taking it seriously.

Do understand, Madam Speaker, if interest rates on U.S. sovereign debt go up 2 points—my math says about 25 years, this board was actually originally off a print that said 30 years—then every single dime of U.S. tax receipts goes just to cover interest. We need to take a step back and think about that. We are piling on so much debt, and the curve expands. In about a decade, we are running into almost structural \$2-trillion-a-year deficits, and it gets bigger from there.

It is demographics. Almost every dime of that borrowing—75 percent will be Medicare and 25 percent will be Social Security—yet around here we will beat the crap out of each other for even mentioning Social Security and Medicare. But to save it is to actually understand the math.

What would happen if we don't convince debt markets that we are going to take this debt seriously?

The CBO model that was a year ago was, hey, the mean interest rate on U.S. sovereigns is going to be like 1.78. Now it is like 2.8. But if it remained around 4, you do realize, Madam Speaker, in two decades every dime just goes to interest. This is what we are handing to our kids.

So I also need to crush some of the stupidity out there. I accept the political class in our campaigns and those things, there has been a certain lack of truthfulness. Democrats will say: Well, let's tax rich people.

Do you realize, Madam Speaker, if you took every billionaire in America and took every dime they had—every dime, and the price of their yachts didn't crash—if you took every dime, then you could run the government for maybe 7½ months. Now, you would crash us into a massive depression. The scale of this spending and the debt is just ginormous. I love that word.

But also for us on the conservative side, we often have our people who get behind the microphone and say: If we